Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63091 PINTOSA CANYON Allotment
[12/17/2009]

The ROSWELL Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 2 study sites within 63091 PINTOSA CANYON. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63091-IDSU-A135	X			X			N/A		
63091-IDSU-A188 (*)	X			X			N/A		

The (*) indicates that the assessment had one or more indicator(s) rated moderate/extreme or extreme. These indicators are:

- Invasive Plants

These indicators by themselves are not enough to rate the site as not meeting a standard but may warrant future monitoring.

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Pintosa Canyon allotment, 63091. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot locations within the allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 1,800 acres of public land. The studies are located on two ecological sites; Loamy CP-3 and Gravelly CP-3. The Loamy CP-3 study location had one indicator (Functional/Structural Groups) rated as a Moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description, due to the lack of western wheatgrass or galleta grass species. The Invasive Plant category at this location was rated as Moderate to Extreme due to the presence and encroachment

of juniper and cholla. The interdisciplinary team recommended that this area be considered for a land treatment, to maintain the diversity of the area and to prevent the establishment of a monoculture with little or no understory. All of the other indicators were rated as either None to Slight or Slight to Moderate.

The second study location is in a Gravelly CP-3 ecological site. All of the indicators for this location fell into either the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate category; cholla and juniper were noted as beginning to encroach and the populations should be monitored.

There are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

Recommendations: With a majority of the indicators falling in the None to Slight or Slight to Moderate category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standards for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. Continue to monitor and evaluate the potential for brush control and complete a land treatment for juniper or cholla if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63091-IDSU-A135			
Legal Land Desc	SENE 21 0040S 0110E Meridian 23	Acreage	680
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003030 ANCHO		
Observers	TRAUTNER, ORTEGA	Observation Date	12/17/2009
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	083	Soil Taxon Name	SHARPS
Texture Class	NM632 SIL	Soil Phase	SHARPS-ROC
Texture Modifier	NM632 SILT LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:	Short and stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	

Comments:	Occasional pedestals.					
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:	Ecological site description 20-30%, this location is estimated to be 15%.					
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation					X
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Runoff and infiltration in balance.					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	Grass species present - excellent, could be better diversity in shrub species.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:	Estimated 400 lbs/acres, should be more production from shrubs.					
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments:	Increase in cholla and juniper, but still scattered.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X

Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:	Noted pronghorn antelope and mule deer.					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	2	8
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	4	7
B	Biotic	0	0	0	5	6

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic		0	0	11

Site Notes: Species present : Blue grama, hairy grama, black grama, vine mesquite, tobosa, three-awn, juniper and cholla.

Very good grass diversity, with low to no utilization. Possibly consider this area for cholla treatment.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63091-IDSU-A188			
Legal Land Desc	SWSW 34 0020S 0100E Meridian 23	Acreage	680
Ecosite	070CY119NM GRAVELLY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003020 LARGO		
Observers	TRAUTNER, ORTEGA	Observation Date	12/17/2009
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	030	Soil Taxon Name	HOGADERO
Texture Class	NM632 GR-L	Soil Phase	HOGADERO-PENA
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:	Maintenance of County Road 14		

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:	Short and stable					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:	Ecological site description 45-55%, this location estimated to be 20%.					
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						

S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	soil dissolves quickly					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Juniper encroachment influence					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	western wheat grass and galleta not present					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	Estimated about 800 lbs/acre					
B	Invasive Plants		X			
Comments:						
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:	good thermal cover and good forage available					
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:						

B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	4	6
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	5	6
B	Biotic	0	1	1	3	6

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic	Two indicators were rated as Moderate or Moderate to Extreme due to the encroachment of juniper. Recommend evaluating the area for a land treatment.	1	1	9

Site Notes: Species noted: juniper, cholla, snakeweed, black & blue grama, four-wing saltbush, muhly species, yucca, dropseed and three-awn.

Heavy pinon/juniper encroachment. The native grasses and shrubs are present. Pinon/juniper treatement may need to be completed in the near future to prevent them from creating a monoculture with no understory. Very little livestock utilization observed.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63091 PINTOSA CANYON

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within Pintosa Canyon, allotment #63091, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman	03/03/2010
Acting Assistant Field Manager	Date